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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993 (continued)

1. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) replied to questions raised by delegations during the first reading of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. He said he would leave aside the questions which were to be taken up during informal consultations, in particular those concerning the creation or reclassification of posts and the general reduction of $13 million recommended by ACABQ on the basis of unliquidated balances.

2. With regard to section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and coordination), questions had been raised concerning the appropriation for travel of representatives. The Secretariat's practice in that regard was the following: before the adoption of resolution 45/248 A, the Organization had paid for first-class travel for a representative of each of the least developed countries, and economy-class travel for four other representatives of each of those countries. Since the adoption of that resolution and pursuant to the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/107/Rev.6, the Organization had paid for first-class travel for one representative of each of the least developed countries, while the four other representatives were entitled to the rate immediately below first class, namely business class, on flights exceeding 9 hours' duration.

3. With regard to section 2 (Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information), some delegations had pointed out that the estimates for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan were much higher than in the budget for the current biennium. That increase was to be explained, in particular, by the fact that the Group required a new aircraft, for three reasons: the aircraft used thus far has not adapted to the terrain in the region; it used fuel which was difficult to procure locally; and, finally, the company from which the aircraft had been leased had gone bankrupt.

4. Referring to the increased estimate for rental of premises for the Military Observer Group at Rawalpindi (Pakistan), he said that the premises had changed hands and that the Organization had finally agreed to pay the price asked by the new owner, since it had proved impossible to find comparable premises at a lower price. Despite the increase, the new rent was still lower than that paid by other United Nations bodies, including UNHCR and UNDP, in the same region. The premises used for other peace-keeping missions were either provided without charge or were rented at the market rate. With regard to vehicle replacement, it was proposed that six vehicles out of a pool of 28 should be replaced, in conformity with standard practice, which was to replace light vehicles after 5 years of use and heavy vehicles after 6 or 7 years.

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5. Turning to the relationship between the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon and the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, he explained that the latter performed a liaison function, but that no official was responsible for those duties on a full-time basis. It was difficult to see how that function could be entrusted to the Office of the Coordinator, whose expenses would be thereby increased; moreover, the functions of representation at Headquarters would no longer be provided for.

6. Referring to the activities of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information concerning refugees, he said that the Office was responsible for monitoring flows of refugees: in two recent resolutions (resolutions 44/164 and 45/153) the General Assembly had made specific reference to the role of the Office as "a focal point for the operation of an effective early-warning system and the strengthening of coordination of information-gathering and analysis" regarding flows of refugees and displaced persons.

7. Lastly, under the subheading "Other representatives and missions" in table 2.3, there was no indication of the estimated expenditures, since, for most of those activities, it was impossible to foresee whether resources would be necessary or how much they might amount to. Accordingly, the Secretariat saw no other solution than to follow the procedure for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, as had been done for the biennium 1990-1991.

8. Regarding section 3 of the proposed programme budget (Political and Security Council affairs), mention had been made of delays in the publication of the official documents of the Council, and it had been asked whether the translation and issuance of those documents should not be translated and edited externally, if necessary using a new presentation. The Security Council documents included the printed version of the Council's resolutions and decisions, published each year, the verbatim records of the Council's meetings and the quarterly supplements. No provision was made in section 3 for personnel resources to prepare those documents, a task which was carried out by staff from the Department of Conference Services. Estimates were given only under the heading of printing. The current presentation was well suited to the electronic typesetting system used in the Organization, which should, starting in 1992, make it possible to produce the English, French and Spanish versions of a certain number of documents internally; it was hoped that the same would apply for Arabic, Chinese and Russian in the near future.

9. There had been no delay in the publication of the Council's resolutions and decisions, since such documents were regarded as having priority: the compendium for 1990-1991 had been issued. With regard to the delays in the publication of the verbatim records of the Council's meetings and the quarterly supplements, a document would be submitted to the Committee on Conferences at its 1992 session containing an analysis of the problem as a whole and proposing a solution for the verbatim records. In any case, it seemed desirable that the preparation of those texts - a highly specialized

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task - should continue to be carried out by United Nations personnel, since that was the case for all the Organization's basic texts.

10. In connection with the delays in the publication of the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council, he said that the volume for the years 1985-1988 would be finished by mid-1992: delays would accordingly continue. The related work was done, not by the Department of Conference Services but by a section of the Security Council and Political Committees Division, whose staff consisted of four Professionals and two General Service staff. Such work could not be done externally, since it required a comprehensive knowledge of Security Council procedures and practices.

11. A further question had concerned the appropriations requested for the Conference on the Indian Ocean. Resources had been proposed to provide substantive services for two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. A statement of the programme budget implications would be submitted if that Committee took a decision regarding the Conference.

12. Lastly, he said that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, consisting of three members (France, Turkey and the United States) did its work within the framework of informal consultations. It had reported on its activities in document A/46/373.

13. Turning to section 4 (Political and General Assembly affairs and Secretariat services), one delegation had asked for explanations regarding the estimates for official functions relating to the meetings of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. He explained that all the seminars, symposia and other meetings relating to the rights of the Palestinians were organized by the Division for Palestinian Rights. The resources required for those meetings were therefore included under the heading of the Division, not the Committee. For the period 1986-1987, 18 meetings had been programmed and 16 had been held; for the period 1988-1989, 18 meetings had been proposed and 17 held and, for the period 1990-1991, 19 meetings had been proposed and 18 held.

14. Referring to section 9 (Legal activities), he said that the Secretariat was not yet in a position to reply to the questions raised, but would do so as soon as possible.

15. With regard to section 10 (Law of the sea and ocean affairs), he said that the estimated resources were based on the hypothesis that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea would probably enter into force during the financial year 1992-1993 upon receipt of the sixtieth instrument of ratification (51 instruments of ratification had been received to date). Once the Convention had entered into force, it would no longer be necessary to finance the activities of the Preparatory Commission. Resolution I of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea provided that the Preparatory Commission should remain in existence until the conclusion of the first session of the Assembly of the International Sea-Bed Authority. Resources

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would, however, continue to be required in connection with the Secretary-General's tasks under the Convention, in particular that of convening and servicing the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

16. With regard to section 11B (World Food Council), questions had been raised concerning the rental of Council premises in buildings belonging to FAO. The absence of a headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the Italian Government partially explained the arrangements concluded between the Council secretariat and FAO. In view of the real-estate market situation in Rome it would be more expensive for the Council to rent premises outside FAO.

17. With regard to section 13 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), he explained that most of the extrabudgetary resources were intended for operational projects undertaken by the Statistical Office on behalf of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. With regard to Project LINK, referred to in subprogramme 5 of programme 1, he explained that the project cost for the financial year 1991 under the regular budget would amount to approximately $1 million, financing to the amount of $500,000 being derived from extrabudgetary funds.

18. As regards the Department's relations with non-governmental organizations, he said that changes introduced in budget presentation had been taken into account. The activities in question were now described under subprogramme 8 (Interorganizational cooperation, para. 13.20) and no longer under the heading "Executive direction and management". They also appeared under "parliamentary services". No change was proposed as regards the activities of the Department's group for liaison with non-governmental organizations. If the Committee so decided, the Secretariat could, of course, revert to the presentation which had been adopted for the budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The reference to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), a body which no longer existed, would be deleted from the definitive version of the budget. Lastly, he said that major efforts had been made to transfer resources from the "Executive direction and management" heading to operational activities.

19. In connection with section 17 (United Nations Environment Programme) it should be recalled that the UNEP programme of publications came under the Publications Committee of the Programme rather than the United Nations Publications Committee, and was financed out of the United Nations Environment Fund.

20. In connection with the same section the suggestion had been made that the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation should be merged with the International Energy Agency (IEA). It should be recalled that the General Assembly had given the Committee a clear mandate to evaluate the consequences of atomic radiation. In any event, the question touched upon the restructuring of the Secretariat and fell outside the scope of the Committee's consideration of the programme budget.

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21. In connection with section 22 (International Drug Control), it had been asked what resources were allocated to activities connected with supply and demand in opiates and the use of licit drugs. The secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was responsible for such activities and would continue to receive the assistance it required. It was difficult to make a separate evaluation of resources needed for that purpose, which were included in the appropriations requested under the section.

22. With regard to section 26 (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)), questions had been asked concerning extrabudgetary resources and support to be given to the ECLAC population programme by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The programme was executed jointly with the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) and with the support of UNFPA. In 1977, following the reduction in extrabudgetary funds provided by UNFPA, ECLAC had requested the transfer of a number of posts to the ordinary budget. The request had been accepted by the General Assembly and, since the biennium 1978-1979, 10 posts had been charged to the regular budget. UNFPA had modified its policy with regard to regional activities, and the budget estimates reflected the abolition of posts previously financed by the Fund.

23. In section 28 (Human rights), the reduction of approximately $1.3 million in the amount under "General temporary assistance" was compensated by the conversion to established posts of eight posts previously financed out of appropriations under that heading. The change meant a regularization of the situation in that it provided a permanent base for fact-finding activities, and thus constituted strengthening the Centre for Human Rights rather than the country. So far as the Yearbook on Human Rights was concerned, the 1990 issue was ready and, according to Secretariat estimates, the delay would have been made up by the end of the biennium 1992-1993. The Secretary-General's proposals in respect of section 28 were to some extent based on the results of a workload analysis prepared by the Secretariat. That analysis, however, did not constitute an official document. When a definitive decision was taken, it would appear in the Secretary-General's Bulletin, which would describe the structure of the Centre. With regard to the recommendation of ACABQ concerning the request for the establishment of additional posts in connection with the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, he explained that only two countries - Morocco and Mexico - had ratified the Convention. As for the World Conference on Human Rights, a statement of financial implications affecting the programme budget would be submitted to the Third Committee following the adoption of the relevant resolution by that Committee.

24. With regard to section 29A and the number of refugees in the countries in respect of which the Secretary-General was proposing that the post of chief of mission should be charged to the regular budget, he said that figures varied from 1 million refugees in Malawi to a mere handful in Nepal. A detailed list would be placed at the Committee's disposal.

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25. The budgetary estimates relating to the Department of Public Information (sect. 31) had given rise to several questions, including one on the use of contractual printing. Material produced by the Department of Public Information often had to be published very quickly, which could not always be done by internal means in view of the workload of the Department of Conference Services. The Secretariat nevertheless did its best to use internal printing capacities wherever possible. So far as the annual Report of the Secretary-General was concerned, the Department of Conference Services was not at present in a position to publish it quickly enough in all six official languages at once. The document was therefore printed externally, in the first instance only in English, Spanish and French, the languages with the largest readership. Regular budget funds or extrabudgetary funds were made available to United Nations information centres with a view to enabling them to produce texts in the three other official languages as well as in local languages.

26. With regard to the periodical Africa Recovery, an amount of about $400,000 was provided under that heading for expenditures other than personnel costs in section 11A, in addition to four posts. To those resources should be added extrabudgetary funds amounting to $600,000 to $700,000 derived from the Trust Fund for Information Support for African Economic Recovery and Development. That Fund had been erroneously included in section 31 and would be transferred to section 11A in the definitive version of the budget.

27. Turning to section 32 (Conference services), he pointed out that costs relating to conference services and amounting to $38 million also appeared in nine other sections; the total, including section 32, amounted to $457 million. Of those $38 million, $29 million were related to the four regional commissions other than ECE and $4.1 million were related to UNEP. The regional commissions thus accounted for the major share of conference services costs not appearing in section 32.

28. With regard to section 33A, he said that the November 1991 balance of the separate account relating to the Integrated Management Information System stood at $6.7 million. The fund was a multi-year one, the share in it of peace-keeping operations amounting to 7.4 per cent.

29. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) asked when the audit of the programmes relating to Afghanistan (sect. 2) would be made available to Member States. He recalled that his delegation had wished to know whether the resolution adopted at the forty-fifth session limiting the cost-of-living adjustment for salaries of staff in the General Service category had been taken fully into account in the budget and, if not, had requested a table indicating the difference between actual salaries and those corresponding to full application of the resolution. Furthermore, information concerning the funding of staff union activities, although requested several weeks previously, had still not been provided.

30. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) recalled that her delegation had asked why some non-mandated activities were included in section 11A while other, mandated activities were not. Concerning the workload of the Centre for Human Rights, the internal document prepared by the Secretariat could not be regarded as a clear answer to the request made by the General Assembly at the previous session. Lastly, in her delegation's view, there was apparent duplication between the activities of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information (sect. 2C) and some activities under "Services for political and security affairs" (sect. 3). The Secretariat might perhaps explain what essential difference it saw between those two sets of activities.

31. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said he hoped that the Committee would be given more precise information on the status of the Trust Fund for Information Support for African Economic Recovery and Development and on what action the Secretariat was contemplating in the light of the change in contributions from UNDP. In his delegation's view, it would probably be necessary to return to that question during the informal consultations.

32. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation had wished to know why the Secretary-General's annual report had been prepared originally in the six official languages but had then been issued in only three, and also to what extent the Secretariat had taken account of the increased capacity for internal printing in the estimated requirements for that purpose. The proposed reduction for the current biennium seemed in fact to be attributable to other factors than the savings which might be achieved through greater use of internal printing capacity.

33. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) indicated that he would reply as soon as possible, and certainly by the time of the informal consultations, to the questions asked by the representatives of Japan, Uganda and the United States. The question from the delegation of Cuba concerning activities included in section 11A raised a more general problem, which was to be examined by the Chairman of the informal consultations. Regarding the workload analysis, there was no scientific way of establishing a relationship between the number of mandates and committees serviced and the number of posts.

34. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation reserved the right to comment further on section 11A during the informal consultations and in the second reading of the proposed programme budget. It took note of Mr. Baudot's observation that there was no scientific means of establishing a relationship between the number of mandates and the number of posts. That would have to be taken into account when the Committee considered the projected large increase in the number of posts under section 28.

International Computing Centre: 1992 budget estimates (A/C.5/46/6)

35. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had examined the budget estimates of the International Computing Centre for 1992 in accordance with

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General Assembly resolution 31/208 III and taking account of the additional information provided by the Director of the Centre. The 1992 budget estimates, based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.40 to the dollar and an inflation assumption of 4.65 per cent, amounted to $13,053,600 as compared to $10,515,500 in 1991. As could be seen from table 1, the estimates included resource growth of $305,100, or 2.5 per cent. The Advisory Committee noted that the presentation of the 1992 estimates had been revised to conform to the programme budget format of the United Nations.

36. Table 2 of the Secretary-General's report showed that the five largest users of the Centre's services were the United Nations, WHO, UNHCR, WFP and WIPO, those organizations together providing 84 per cent of the funding for the Centre's operations. The budget estimates also included residual income in an amount of $224,500, under "Other funds", from non-participant organizations which used the Centre's facilities. The share of the United Nations for the use of the Centre in 1992 amounted to $2,864,200 at an exchange rate of SwF 1.40 to the dollar. That amount would be met from the resources included from the United Nations share of the Centre under section 34 (Special expenses) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

37. Concerning the breakdown of the budget estimates by category of expenditure, the Advisory Committee noted that salaries and related costs in respect of the 34 existing posts for 1992 were at roughly the same level as in 1991. The estimated requirements under "Supplies" showed an increase of SwF 500,000, which was attributable to expenditures on office automation and telecommunications software. The estimated common service costs were also higher, by SwF 360,000, to cover additional computing and office space requirements and the cost of the electrical support system.

38. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Centre's budget estimates for 1992 and recommended that the General Assembly approve an amount of $13,053,600, or SwF 18,275,000, for that purpose. Regarding the presentation of the Centre's budget, however, the Advisory Committee felt that the summary of estimates by object of expenditure should be more comprehensive and, in addition to the estimates, should indicate any increase or decrease relative to the previous year's budget for each object of expenditure. It would also be useful for the budget estimates to give a clearer indication of expenditures funded from extrabudgetary resources. It appeared from paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report that three Professional posts had been filled in 1990, thus reducing the vacancy rate from 40 per cent to 25 per cent. The Advisory Committee recalled that, in its report on the Centre's budget estimates for 1991 (A/45/7/Add.3), it had taken the view that the Centre should be fully staffed upon completion of its reorganization in order to respond to the needs of its participants. The Advisory Committee trusted that the posts still vacant would be filled very shortly.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Committee approved the 1992 budget estimates of

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the International Computing Centre, amounting to $13,053,600 or SwF 18,275,000.

40. It was so decided.

United Nations Fund for Namibia; scholarship programme for Namibian students (A/C.5/46/10)

41. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), presenting orally the Advisory Committee's report, recalled the decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/243, which were summarized in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/46/10. The results of the proceedings to liquidate the United Nations Institute for Namibia would be presented in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

42. With reference to the scholarship programme, the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 7 of his report that there had been 80 scholarship holders at 1 January 1991 and it was projected that 40 of those awards would be extended in 1992 and 10 in 1993. In paragraph 8 and annex I, it was stated that the total estimated cost of the programme for the period 1991 through to its anticipated completion in 1993 was $2,098,000 and that the difference of $491,000 relative to the figure indicated in document A/C.5/45/2 was to be explained by the increasing costs of education and repatriation of students as well as by the fact that several students would need extra time to complete their degrees. With regard to the Nationhood Programme, six of the ongoing training projects were to be completed in 1991, four in 1992, one in 1993 and two in 1994. Their total cost was estimated at $3,385,300 (para. 12).

43. As indicated in annex III, it was projected that by the end of 1994 the Fund would report a surplus of $2,673,400 under the Nationhood Programme Account and a deficit of $205,700 under the General Account, resulting in a net surplus of $2,467,700. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the completion earlier than anticipated of the assistance project at the United Nations Vocational Training Centre at Loudima (Congo) should enable further substantial savings to be made.

44. The Secretary-General stated that it was his intention, should the need arise, to review with the Trust Committee for the Fund the possibility of absorbing the deficit under the General Acccount within the overall fund balance. The Advisory Committee had no objection to that proposal and noted that, no appropriation would thus be required under the regular budget. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would continue to monitor closely the individual scholarship programme and the various training projects to ensure that they were completed as scheduled.

45. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) noted from paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report that the majority of Namibian students awarded scholarships were enrolled at universities in the United States; he would like

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to know whether any of them had been exempted from payment of tuition fees. In paragraph 5, it was indicated that the results of the proceedings to liquidate the United Nations Institute for Namibia would be presented in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. As the information provided in that report was usually very brief, his delegation formally proposed that the Fifth Committee invite the Secretary-General to submit to it, at the forty-seventh session, a separate report covering all aspects of the liquidation proceedings.

46. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that he would like the proposal just made by the representative of the United States to be considered in the informal consultations.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the conclusions of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 13 to 15 of document A/C.5/46/10 on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and on the understanding that all the issues raised in first reading would be considered in the informal consultations on section 6 and that any necessary adjustments would be made.

48. It was so decided.

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters: request for subvention resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research contained in document A/46/334 (A/46/334; A/C.5/46/11)

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of a subvention to UNIDIR in the amount of $220,000 for 1992. It stressed once again that every effort should be made to secure unrestricted contributions and to charge a fair share of the Institute's support costs to tied contributions so that the cost to the regular budget could be minimized.

50. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) pointed out that during the discussion on section 5 he had requested information from the Secretariat on follow-up to resolution 44/201 B (sect. IV). However, the report in document A/46/334 gave no indication of what initiatives might have been taken to secure more voluntary contributions for UNIDIR and to improve the reimbursement to the Institute of its support costs. His delegation hoped that the Secretariat would provide the desired information in the course of the session. It remained convinced that programmes which could not attract sufficient voluntary contributions should be reduced or cancelled. Although opposed to continuing the subvention to UNIDIR, it would not object to a decision being taken by the Committee given that the question would have to be examined in the informal consultations.

51. Mr. TIERLINCK (Belgium) endorsed the comments made by the representative of the United States.

52. Mr. SEIGNEURIN (France) said he wished to emphasize that his country attached special importance to disarmament and in particular to the activities of UNIDIR, which was the only multilateral body taking a scientific approach to the question. France therefore approved the granting of a subvention to the Institute, although it wished to see it become financially autonomous. His country not only was one of UNIDIR's principal donors but had recently increased its contribution appreciably in order to provide the Institute with the means to carry on its important work.

53. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) endorsed the comments made by the representative of the United States concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolutions by the Secretariat. He recalled that in 1990 the Advisory Committee had noted in its report (A/45/7/Add.5) that most contributions to UNIDIR had remained tied to specific projects, despite the efforts of the Director to encourage supplementary contributions to defray the administrative costs of the Institute. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee had recommended that a fair share of those costs should be charged to the earmarked funds so that the Institute would no longer need to request a subvention from the United Nations.

54. In paragraph 7 of the same report, the Advisory Committee had also recommended that UNIDIR carefully review its activities to avoid possible duplication with the work of other units in the Secretariat, United Nations subsidiary organs or research institutions. Although those recommendations had been accepted by the General Assembly, the report of the Secretariat (A/46/334) gave no information on relevant follow-up action. His delegation therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it reaffirm its approval of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 and 7 of document A/45/7/Add.5 and endorse the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations in paragraph 5.10 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/46/7).

55. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that his country shared France's interest in the Institute's activities. During the consideration of some budget sections, it had been emphasized that certain activities previously financed by extrabudgetary resources should be included in the regular budget. The Institute's activities should be among them. It was therefore unfortunate that the discussion was only about whether to grant the Institute a subvention. Noting that a provision of $440,000 had been proposed for that purpose in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, whereas the recommendation in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/46/11 concerned 1992 only, he wondered how paragraph 3 of the document should be interpreted. It was important not to prejudge decisions that might be taken during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

56. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that, on the whole, he agreed with the remarks made by the representative of France, but thought that the Institute would receive more voluntary contributions if potential donors were interested in its activities. With regard to the possibility of financing the Institute entirely from the regular budget, as suggested by the

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representative of Uganda, he reminded the Committee that the financial arrangements in force derived from article VII, paragraph 2, of the Institute's statute, which the Committee was not competent to change. In previous years, when the United States delegation had reluctantly agreed to the provision of a subvention to the Institute, it had requested the Secretariat to provide a certain amount of information in return. If the Secretariat continued to ignore its requests, his delegation would be forced to be even more careful during the information consultations.

57. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that he doubted whether the Committee could decide on anything in a formal meeting at the current stage and that, in view of the remarks made by other delegations, the matter should be considered during the informal consultations on section 5 of the budget.

58. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that a provision of $440,000 had been made for the current biennium, representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR and that, of that total, a subvention of $220,000 had been charged to the regular budget for 1991. A non-recurrent provision of $440,000 had been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In accordance with established practice, the General Assembly, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, would have to consider the granting of a subvention to the Institute for 1992. The amount requested was $220,000. For the time being, therefore, the Fifth Committee had to decide whether a subvention of $220,000 should be included in the regular budget of the Organization for 1992; that question could be dealt with, as in 1990, during the informal consultations.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, to approve the recommendation by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that a non-recurrent provision of $440,000 be made as a grant representing the United Nations subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for 1992-1993 and that a subvention of $220,000 be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1992, on the understanding that the issues raised in first reading would be taken up during the informal consultations on section 5 and any necessary adjustments made. He would also take it that the Committee wished to inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly decide to approve the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, no additional appropriation would be required under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

60. It was so decided.

Conditions of service of members of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/C.5/45/75 and A/C.5/46/17)

61. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had not considered the matter and thus had no report to make.

62. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the proposal in document A/C.5/46/17 to revise the level of remuneration for inspectors was virtually the same as the one rejected when the forty-fifth session resumed. The Committee had not approved the proposal at that time because the governing bodies of the organizations and programmes participating in the Joint Inspection Unit had not first taken the necessary steps to amend article 14 of the JIU statute. The Secretary-General was now proposing that the General Assembly should first approve the higher level requested for inspectors and then, at some unspecified date, amend the JIU statute, which was contrary to established procedure. For that reason, his delegation proposed that the issue should not be considered at the current session, nor at any future session.

63. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) asked if the Advisory Committee would make a recommendation on the issue at some stage.

64. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had decided that the matter was not within its competence but rather was within the purview of the Fifth Committee. So it would not be submitting either a report or a recommendation.

65. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) said that he supported the proposal made by the delegation of the United States of America.

66. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that her delegation needed more time before it could take a position on the substance of the matter. It therefore thought it undesirable that the Committee should decide at that stage not to consider it.

67. The CHAIRMAN observed that delegations wished to hold further consultations and proposed that a decision on the matter should be deferred to a later meeting.

68. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 106: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek (A/C.5/46/14)

69. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) indicated that the Advisory Committee had taken note of the Secretary-General's report on progress towards the establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek. The Advisory Committee had

(Mr. Mselle)

further been informed that a number of applications had been submitted for the post of director of the centre and that an appointment was expected to be made before the end of the year. The Advisory Committee had also been informed that the resources allocated to the centre for 1991 would probably not be utilized in full. On the basis of that information, the Fifth Committee might wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report issued as document A/C.5/46/14.

70. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Committee should take note of the report contained in document A/C.5/46/14.

71. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.